

Message Text

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16
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W
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R 150647Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5077
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T TEHRAN 0327

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECDEF, CINCPAC, USCINCEUR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, IR
SUBJECT: INDIAN OCEAN TASK GROUP

REF: STATE 004768

1. WE WONDER HOW MUCH MORE CONFUSION WITHIN USG ON INDIAN OCEAN OPERATION CAN BE TOLERATED WITHOUT DOING SERIOUS DAMAGE TO OUR RELATIONS WITH IRAN. UNLESS ASPECTS OF THIS OPERATION THAT AFFECT IRAN ARE QUICKLY AND EFFECTIVLY BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL OF OFFICIALS SENSITIVE TO USG-GOI RELATIONSHIP, WE FEAR WE RUN RISK OF A REAL FOUL-UP. HISTORY OF THIS EXERCISE IS MOST DEPRESSING AND WE DEPLORE FACT THAT OUR SEVERAL PLEAS FOR INFORMATION ON TASK GROUP OPERATIONS HAVE GENERALLY BEEN PUT OFF IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

2. LATEST EXAMPLE OF NON-COORDINATION COULD HAVE BEEN VERY EMBARRASSING TO US. REFTEL SUGGESTED WE INFORM GOI THAT USAF COMMUNICATIONS UNIT WAS BEING WITHDRAWN FROM BANDAR ABBAS. WE LATER LEARNED FROM DOD CHANNELS THAT NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS UNIT OF ROUGHLY SAME SIZE AND MISSION IS PLANNED AS REPLACEMENT. OWING TO GOOD JUDGMENT, OR IF YOU PREFER, GOOD FORTUNE, WE DECIDED TO DELAY IN PASSING REFTEL NEWS TO GOI. IF WE HAD DONE SO,
SECRET

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WE WOULD HAVE APPEARED EITHER FOOLISH OR DECEIVING.

3. WHY IS IT SO DIFFICULT TO GET A HANDLE ON THIS OPERATION? WE KNOW THAT DOD PLANNING HAS FREQUENTLY

BEEN LAID OUT IN ADVANCE WITHOUT COMMUNICATION TO US AS
FYI OR FOR GOI. THIS INDICATES A LACK OF TRUST OR
CONFIDENCE WHICH IS NOT SUPPORTED BY PAST PERFORMANCE.
THERE HAVE BEEN NO LEAKS HERE. FURTHER, THERE NEED BE NO
SERIOUS RISK OF PROBLEMS WITH GOI IF WE DEAL ACCURATELY
AND OPENLY WITH IRANIANS AND GIVE SIGNS THAT THERE IS
INTELLIGENT PLANNING AND RATIONALE BEHIND OPERATION.
HELMS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

SECRET

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